

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305846
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305846

EXDIS
STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, VM

SUBJECT: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG

1. POSTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DESIGNATE A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER TO DEBRIEF BRILLIG CREW FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE BY VIETNAMESE.

2. DEBRIEFING WOULD OF COURSE BE AT OPTION OF CREW AND
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CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THEY ARE UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO RECOUNT THEIR EXPERIENCES. IF CREW AGREES TO DEBRIEFING, EMBOFF SHOULD NOTE AT OUTSET THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE PROVIDED US WITH NO SUBSTANTIATION FOR THEIR ALLEGATIONS AND THAT USG WILL REFRAIN FROM SPECULATING ON THEIR VERACITY. IN ADDITION, EMBOFF SHOULD BRIEFLY NOTE US EFFORTS TO ASSIST CREW AND OBTAIN ITS

RELEASE TO INCLUDE:

-- NUMEROUS COMMUNICATIONS ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON CREW'S STATUS BEGINNING OCTOBER 13.

-- REQUEST TO VIETNAMESE TO ALLOW THIRD PARTY ACCESS TO CREW TO VERIFY THEIR WELFARE.

-- PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WE INTENDED TO RAISE BRILLIG AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT DECEMBER 19-20 PARIS TALKS.

-- FACT THAT WE DID SO AT OPENING SESSION DECEMBER 19.

3. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF QUESTIONS ON WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE CREW'S REACTION:

A. LOCATION OF YACHT WHEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. HOW FAR FROM ISLAND OF HON KHOAI?

B. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE AND DETENTION.

C. PROCESS WHEREBY VIETNAMESE CHARGED CREW WITH VIOLATIONS INCLUDING DATE.

D. COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAMILIES OF CREW. DID ANY ACTUALLY REACH CREW?

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E. VIETNAMESE CHARACTERIZATION OF US EFFORTS TO ASSIST CREW. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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